

CLAIMS

1. A process for starting a data processing installation, the process comprising the steps of:

- 5 storing program commands of a bootstrap program in a bootstrap memory unit;
- controlling transfer of the program commands, via a processor when executing the bootstrap program, from a reload memory unit to a main memory unit; and
- 10 starting execution of the program commands, stored in the main memory unit during the transfer operation, after the transfer operation and via the processor;
- wherein at least one of the bootstrap memory unit and the reload memory unit is one of a serial-access memory unit and a memory unit which requires a plurality of read access operations in order to read a program command for the processor.

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2. A process for starting data processing installation as claimed in claim 1, the process further comprising the steps of:

- transferring, during the transfer operation, the program commands of the bootstrap program from the bootstrap memory unit to the main memory unit using a
- 20 control circuit;
- starting execution of the program commands, via the processor and after the bootstrap transfer operation, transfer to the main memory unit during the bootstrap transfer operation; and
- executing a reload transfer operation, via the processor, in order to transfer
- 25 the program commands from the reload memory unit to the main memory unit.

3. A process for starting a data processing installation as claimed in claim 2, wherein the control unit is at least one of a binary control unit in which the control function is prescribed by the interconnection of logic circuits, and held in a

user-specific, integrated circuit in which logic circuit elements have been interconnected as prescribed by the user in a programming operation.

4. A process for starting a data processing installation as claimed in
5 claim 2, the process further comprising the steps of:

keeping the processor in a reset state in which no commands are executed,
during the bootstrap transfer operation and via the control unit; and

enabling execution of commands, via the control unit, after the bootstrap
transfer operation by switching over a reset signal.

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5. A process for starting a data processing installation as claimed in
claim 1, the process further comprising at least one of the following steps:

storing the program commands, via the bootstrap memory unit, even in the
event of failure of a supply voltage for the memory unit;

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outputting bit positions, via the bootstrap memory unit, of its stored program
commands serially or using a plurality of read operations per program command;

setting the storage capacity of the bootstrap memory unit to be less than 256
kilobytes; and

defining the bootstrap memory to be an EEPROM.

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6. A process for starting a data processing installation as claimed in
claim 1, the process further comprising at least one of the following steps:

erasing, via the main memory unit, its stored program commands in the
event of failure of the supply voltage for the main memory unit;

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allowing simultaneous input and output, via the main memory unit, of a
plurality of bit positions of a program command; and

defining the main memory unit as a synchronously operating dynamic RAM.

7. A process for starting a data processing installation as claimed in
30 claim 1, the process further comprising at least one of the following steps:

storing the program commands, via the reload memory unit, even in the event of failure of a supply voltage for the memory unit;

outputting, via the reload memory unit, bit positions of its stored program commands serially or using a plurality of read operations per program command;

5 defining the storage capacity of the reload memory unit to be greater than 4 megabytes; and

incorporating into the memory unit at least one of a "multimedia card", a Compact Flash card, a SmartMedia card, and a Memory Stick memory unit.

10 8. A process for starting a data processing installation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reload memory unit contains a register in which a start address of one currently readable memory area from at least two memory areas of the reload memory unit is noted, such that, when the bootstrap program is executed, the transfer operation is executed based on the start address.

15 9. A process for starting a data processing installation as claimed in claim 8, the process further comprising the step of:

replacing the program commands in the reload memory unit by storing a new version of the program commands in the currently unreadable memory area of the reload memory unit, noting in the register the address of the other memory area, initiating a new start operation, re-entering into the register the value entered before the other memory area was set in the event of errors occurring, and initiating a start operation again.

25 10. A process for starting a data processing installation as claimed in claim 1, the process further comprising the steps of:

changing the address of at least one portion of the program commands, at least once during execution of the program commands transferred to the main memory unit, the program commands being moved from their original memory area in the main memory unit to another memory area of the main memory unit;